

Vermont 2014-2015 DCF Authors: Program Information

LINDA URBAN

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Your Secret Heart — Joy, Fear, and the Hard Work of Reaching Your Goals

In this presentation, Linda describes her path to publication from a childhood affinity for writing, to a moment in her early teens where a harsh word from a peer led her to put aside the risk of putting her heart on the page, to her cautious reentry to the world of writing twenty years later and the publication of *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*. Linda's presentation will also touch on writer's craft, including the use of details to tell a story and the importance of revision (and more revision) to make a piece of writing the best it can be.

Length: 45 minute presentation + 15 minute Q&A

Ages: Grades 4-8, School-wide or smaller group

Writing and Rewriting the Picture Book

Together, we'll read *Mouse Was Mad* and talk about how the story came to be – from the first words, to illustration sketches, to the final book. Emphasis on the power of word choice and revision.

Length: 20-30 minute presentation + 10 minute Q&A

Ages: Grades 1-3

Writing Workshop: Point of View

How do we come to know a character? By looking at the world through his or her eyes. In this workshop, we'll use all of our senses in close observation, then do the same from the point of view of a fictional character, ultimately trying our hand at a short writing exercise that demonstrates who that character is.

Length: 60 minutes

Ages: Grades 4-8

Discounted Vermont Only Fee: \$1,250 per day, limited to 3 presentations. Additional 15-minute K/Pre-K story time at no charge.

Here's what people are saying about Linda Urban's school visits:

"Linda's visit to our school was most memorable. She is such a genuine, down-to-earth person. She truly connected to the students and teachers. She explained her writing process and encouraged the kids to be writers, too. Our teachers appreciated that! Linda's sense of humor comes through, just as it does in her writing . . . I highly recommend her for a most memorable author visit!"

"We are truly fortunate and grateful for the message you shared with students and your willingness to share the story behind the story. I am positive that it is good events and authors like this that help us instill a love for reading and writing with the young people who enter our doors each day."

TANYA LEE STONE

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The 3 “R’s”: Research, Writing, and Revision

In this highly interactive presentation, Tanya discusses how and why she chooses the topics she does, why being passionate about what you are writing is necessary to good writing, what it takes to research a nonfiction book (including primary sources and good & bad Internet sources), what writing a first draft is for (and what it’s not for), and the art of revision. She discusses the story behind the story, as well as how she works with illustrators and finds photographs. She encourages student questions throughout and leaves time for Q&A at the end as well.

Tanya is happy to adjust her visits to meet the needs of each school. In addition to the described presentation, she is happy to discuss any aspect of writing that a teacher or librarian might need, including doing a writing workshop with students, or a short story time for K-1 kids.

For high schools, Tanya can also engage in a workshop about Tackling Tough Topics, which includes a discussion of why Young Adult books often focus on topics that teens are dealing with, such as alcohol, drugs, sex, or violence. What it means to censor a book is also part of the discussion.

Her VT day rate of \$1,500 (discounted from higher out-of-state rate) includes either three 60-minute or four 45-minute presentations, plus a 15-20 minute story time for K-1. She is also happy to spend her lunch break talking with faculty or a small selection of students at the school’s request.

What teachers/librarians are saying:

I especially appreciated how Tanya made connections between her work and the reading and writing work students do daily in school. They felt both validated and inspired by her visit. –Lee Orlando, Lyman Hunt Middle School

Tanya's visit was especially welcome because of the extra interest in non-fiction reading and writing that Common Core State Standards has placed on K-12 students. –Carole Oglesby, Swanton Elementary

Tanya Lee Stone is a remarkable writer who knows how to deliver school presentations that have a lasting impact on students and teachers. A couple of months after her visit I overheard some seventh and eighth grade students talking to each other in the hallway about Tanya. Tanya also influences writing instruction throughout the year, as teachers refer to her methods, her work ethic and her words in their writing classes. –Nancy Mildrum, Georgia Elementary & Middle School